

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:  
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**PCT**

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year) <b>12 OCT 2005</b>
Applicant's or agent's file reference  MURD-10725		<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraph 2 below
International application No.  PCT/US05/16430	International filing date (day/month/year)  11 May 2005 (11.05.2005)	Priority date (day/month/year)  11 May 2004 (11.05.2004)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  IPC(7): A61H 19/00 and US Cl.: 601/131		
Applicant  MURLOCK, MATHEW L.		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

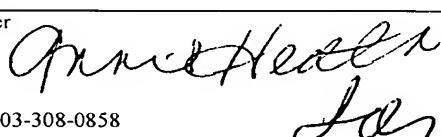
2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US  Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  Michael Brown  Telephone No. 703-308-0858
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Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (January 2004)

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/US05/16430

**Box No. I Basis of this opinion**

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- a sequence listing  
 table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- in written format  
 in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- contained in international application as filed.  
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
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International application No.  
PCT/US05/16430

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-24</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-5 and 15-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>6-14 and 21-24</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-24</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-5 and 15-20 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Cross. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made that the spherical elements disclosed by Cross could be replaceable and made of the various material recited in the claims.

Claims 1-5 and 15-20 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over York. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made that the spherical elements disclosed by York could be replaceable and made of various material recited in the claims.

Claims 6-14 and 21-24 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a massage tool having a second opening through a back side that is smaller than a first opening through a front side of a interior surface that forms a socket in the device.

Claims 1-24 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus demonstrate industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.